A draft sample City Resilience Criteria/Checklist for local governments

**HFA Priority 1 – Make Disaster Risk Reduction a Priority**

1. Have competent and accountable urban and local governance in place, including mechanisms for disaster risk reduction, based on a participatory dialogue between city governments and civil society to identify risks, and apply risk reduction and preparedness

2. Have an assigned city budget for disaster risk reduction, with provisions for finance and technical cooperation enabling low-income families to reduce risks in their housing and environment, and to strengthen resilience through effective social safety nets

3. Have proactive policies and strategies to provide safe land for low-income citizens

**HFA Priority 2 – Know the Risks and Take Action**

4. Have a comprehensive risk assessment constantly updated and used as basis for urban development plans and early warning system, and easily available and understood by the public

**HFA Priority 3 – Build Understanding and Awareness**

5. Have education programmes on disaster risk reduction in place in schools and local communities

**HFA Priority 4 – Reduce Risk**

6. Invest to reduce the deficit of risk-reducing infrastructure, such as flood drainage in high risk areas, and put in place management systems with local communities to ensure their maintenance.

7. Make risk compliant building regulations and land use planning norms appropriate to the needs and possibilities of low income citizens and apply them as an instrument to improve the safety of the built environment

8. Have all schools and health facilities and other critical facilities assessed and upgraded as necessary to withstand major hazards, and develop plans for recovering and protecting heritage buildings and sites

9. Have plans and regulations in place to protect ecosystems and natural buffers to mitigate floods, storm surges and other hazards, and ensure that climate change adaptation initiatives builds on risk reduction practices

**HFA Priority 5 – Be Prepared and Ready to Act**

10. Have early warning and emergency management capacities in place, with locally owned preparedness plans known and regular public drills

**Note:**
The Checklist is organized based on the Priorities as set out in the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA)*. See further: www.unisdr.org/hfa
Use of the Checklist:

The success of the initiative rests on whether we can attract a great number of participating cities that “signs up” to the suggested criteria and checklist. This checklist builds on the priorities adopted in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015.

For the Campaign, UNISDR will use these criteria with all the campaign partners to develop and promote good practice; promote capacity development and cross-learning of experiences in specific areas; identify partners who can specifically provide expertise in one or more areas.

With the participation of partners, UNISDR will:

- **Develop an interactive Campaign website** that displays the names and the numbers of participating cities by different categories, including (a) countries and regions, (b) population scales and (c) geographical and hazard conditions.
- **Organize region based networks for learning and capacity development** - supported by a number of promoters and “champions” drawn from the participants in the “Alliance for local governments in disaster risk reduction”, academia and partner organizations.
- **Organize policy dialogues and workshops** with local governments in each region, to learn from specific experiences, promote the investment opportunities between local, national and international partners, programming and to increase the visibility of the subject.
- **Conduct a mid-term analysis** on the responses from the cities, in order to increase awareness and encourage strengthened assistance by international and regional partners of the Campaign.
- **Nominate a few high-performing cities** (e.g. one city per Criteria area) and award a special title such as “Best Model Cities”- aim at having at least 50 Role Model cities of different size and in different regions exposed to different hazards.

Why do local governments want to participate in the Campaign?

- **Potential incentives:**
  - To get access to expertise on how to reduce disaster risk, and have learning opportunities
  - Get visibility for political leadership and innovation - in the case of Role Model cities
  - Participate in or offer hosting for city to city learning events; be part of high visibility events in all regions for “Role Model cities” to discuss with national or global counterparts critical issues, link to climate change adaptation, MDGs and financing forums.
  - UNISDR would dedicate the UN-Nippon Foundation Award on Disaster Reduction to reward best practices of local governments to successfully reduce disaster risk and link this to high-profile media events.

Publicize good practice from cities in publications, on website, in media (written and broadcast).